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DE RUEHKA #0311 0570553
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R 260553Z FEB 07
FM AMEMBASSY DHAKA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3298
INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 9671
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 1514
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 8948
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 7794
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

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TAGS: [MARR](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [BG](#)

SUBJECT: ARMY CHIEF ENVISIONS ELECTIONS IN 18-24 MONTHS

REF: USDAO DHAKA IIR 6 925 0537 07

Classified By: A/DCM D.C. McCullough, reason para 1.4 d.

(C) Chief of Army Staff General Moeen covered a wide range of topics in a February 25 meeting with Ambassador (reftel). Of particular note, Moeen:

-- doubted elections would occur before 18-24 months, saying it would take one year just to do complete a voter ID card project once it is approved;

-- maintained the military supports but does not control the government, but remarked that without military support the government would fall;

-- insisted there would be no martial law so long as he is army chief;

-- denied that the army is in any way abusing detainees, detailing the steps he has taken to enforce discipline among troops and officers.

-- indicated that all Bangladeshis support the government except for one million "corrupt" persons tied to political parties; and

-- predicted that by the end of this week first incident reports would be filed on at least 50 percent of detainees.
PASI